Augusta Labs

Forward Deployed AI Engineer

I. About Augusta Labs

Augusta Labs is an applied AI lab partnering with the largest PE firms in the world on AI-driven value creation - transforming portfolio companies into AI-native businesses.

Co-founded in 2024 by João Cerejeira (ex-McKinsey) and Rodrigo Fernandes (ex-Sword Health, AI unicorn backed by Founders Fund and Khosla Ventures), we intentionally assembled Portugal's top young talent.

Based in Lisbon and serving clients globally, we design, develop and deploy production-ready AI solutions that deliver measurable value in weeks, not years, building on our own internal accelerators. We're growing >5x year-over-year and recently raised a round valuing the company at €50m.

II. About the Opportunity

AI is no longer a research exercise. The companies winning today are the ones shipping AI into production - fast, at scale, and with direct business impact. That requires a different kind of engineer: one who can build and one who can lead the room while doing it.

Augusta Labs' Forward Deployed Engineers are the tip of the spear. You will be embedded directly with our clients - sitting in their war rooms, understanding their operations, and building production-grade AI solutions that transform how they work. You are not handing off specs to a delivery team. You are the delivery team. You own the problem, the architecture, the client relationship, and the outcome.

This is the closest thing to being an AI startup CTO without starting a company. You will work on critical, high-stakes problems inside some of the largest organisations in the world, with the autonomy to make consequential technical and strategic decisions daily. One week you might be building an end-to-end LLM pipeline for a Fortune 500 manufacturer; the next, scoping an AI transformation programme with a portfolio company's C-suite.

The role demands someone who is technically exceptional and commercially sharp - someone who can build a production system in the morning and present the roadmap to a board in the afternoon. If you want to grow at a speed that is bluntly unachievable anywhere else, this is the role.

III. What You Will Do

- Own AI projects end-to-end - from discovery and scoping through architecture, development, deployment, and production support - directly alongside the client.
- Act as the primary technical point of contact with client stakeholders, leading meetings, shaping AI strategy, and translating complex business problems into working solutions.
- Build production-grade AI systems - including LLM-based workflows, data pipelines, retrieval-augmented generation, agentic systems, and domain-specific models - at enterprise scale.
- Operate as the mini-CEO of your project: you own the quality, the client, the timeline, the output, and the consequences.
- Work across industries and problem domains - gaining massive B2B exposure across Fortune 500 enterprises, consulting firms, and private equity portfolios.
- Contribute learnings and reusable components from the field back into Augusta Labs' internal tools, frameworks, and product strategy.
- Drive technical credibility in the room - earning the trust of CTOs, operating partners, and engineering teams by demonstrating depth, speed, and taste.

IV. What You Will Need

- Strong engineering ability with demonstrated proficiency across modern AI/ML tooling - you can build and ship, not just prototype.
- Hands-on experience building with LLMs, including prompt engineering, fine-tuning, evaluation, and deploying generative AI systems into production.
- The ability to learn new domains rapidly and execute under ambiguity - we test slope, not credentials.
- Commercial instinct and communication skills to operate credibly in front of senior client stakeholders - you can explain what you built and why it matters in business terms.
- High-ownership, high-intensity mindset - you take responsibility before it is given to you, and you deliver under pressure.
- Genuine curiosity and the drive to go deep on problems that no one has solved before.

The strongest profiles bring a rare combination of deep technical skill, the ability to operate in front of clients, and the hunger to grow at a pace that most environments simply cannot offer.